

ANOTHER SMITH ARTICLE ON GOLF

NEWS OF ALL BRANCHES OF SPORT

EDITED BY
ROBERT EDGREN

HOW TO PLAY GOLF.

The Niblick Is Used Chiefly to Get the Ball Out of Bunkers and High Grass—Club Must Be Played With a Straight Up and Down Stroke to Gain Best Results.

Tenth of a series by Alex Smith on how to play golf. Today's article explains the niblick. The country's leading golf instructor and Metropolitan winner posed especially for the accompanying picture, showing how the club should be played. This series is an exclusive feature for The Evening World and appears on these pages three times a week.

BY ALEX. SMITH.

(Former Open Champion of the United States and Winner of This Year's Metropolitan Title.)

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THE niblick is a big aid for bringing the ball out of bunkers and tall grass, but the club should be used as little as possible and only as a last resort for getting out of difficulties. The niblick, because of its unusual weight and peculiar shape, is exceptionally hard to handle. It is so heavy and powerful that it needs a brand new stroke, different from that used for any other club.

The time to play the niblick is when the ball is found in a bunker or other hazards that do every golf course. To their sorrow, beginners will find themselves getting into bunkers very often during their early trials and, consequently, must rely on the niblick for getting back on the course.

Because of the heavy work the niblick is called on to do the club must be gripped very firmly. The niblick is played with a straight up and down stroke entirely different from the follow-through swings used for most other clubs. This straight stroke is exceedingly hard to master, but it is the only way the awkward niblick can be played properly.

Many times while approaching the green a golfer will find himself as the result of a poor shot in a bunker or trap. The only possible way to escape with the loss of but few strokes is to make a short pitch on the green and play the niblick with such a stroke that the ball will be given a back spin that won't permit it to make a long run on the green and past the hole.

To accomplish this the right foot for addressing should be considerably in advance of the left and the ball in a position nearly opposite the left heel. The club must be carried back entirely with the wrists. Don't attempt to bring the club from in back of the shoulders as for a follow-through swing.

It must descend more from above the shoulders, instead of from the rear. When bringing the club down to meet the ball never turn the face of the club away from the ball. It is more of a swing out from instead of around the body. The work is done altogether with the wrists and arms. Any body motion isn't necessary. The body and head must remain still throughout the stroke.

Pitcher Coombs of Athletics Again So Badly Injured That He'll Be Unable to Appear in the World's Series.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 3.—Jack Coombs, the Athletics' great pitcher, who was a big factor in the victory of his team in both the world's series of 1910 against Chicago and that of 1911 against New York, has been officially declared out of this season's big battle for the championship. During practice on Monday he brought back his old intestinal trouble through a bad twist, and he is now confined to his bed, and the physicians who are attending him have told Manager Mack to announce that there is no chance of him twirling again this season.

Coombs has never been the same since he was hit by a batted ball in the next to the last game of the series with the Giants two years ago. This spring he took part in only one big league game—the opening contest in Boston—where he pitched four innings. Immediately after he was taken down with fever and was away from the club until his return early last month.

Connie Mack issued the following statement: "Coombs is out of it for this year. It is hard luck, but we must go into the series without him, should we win the pennant. Jack had the success of the club at heart. He fretted in Maine waiting for the chance to join us and take his place in the team. I hoped when he came back that he was all right, and his browned color certainly indicated that he was. But he still lacks the necessary strength for baseball.

"I had expected to work him out this morning with a catcher and hitters, and to use him in a game this week in case he showed anything like the right strength. His doctors have not reported on his condition, but after this setback he never could get right in time to go up against the stress of a big series. I shall have to do my best with my great veterans, Fisk and Bender, and a pair of my young pitchers, three of whom have been showing remarkable form."

BEHIND THE CATCHER.

Now That President Lynch Has Awarded Saturday's Forfeited Game to the Phillies, It Makes the Second Time This Season That the Giants Have Lost to That Club Through the Mistakes of Umpires.

By Bosman Bulger.

AFTER two days of unusual suspense J. McGraw looked over his scoutbook this morning and found the blot gone. His long record, thanks to President Lynch, remains unbroken and he has still to win a decision. "For two days I have been wondering if it was really in the cards for them to give me the best of a baseball argument," the Giant manager said with a half grin, "and as the time passed I was almost on the point of believing that it might be true. No, there's not a chance. In this particular case I made no protest, was not in the mixup and let the umpire act on his own initiative, and still I lose!"

EVEN BEING A CHAMP HAS ITS OTHER SIDE.

Under those circumstances it is pretty hard to tell just what a fellow really ought to do. In a nutshell it's like this: The Giants were prevented from playing out their half of an inning by the league umpire; they were given the game 9 to 0; they were chased out of Philadelphia under a fire of brickbats, pop bottles and sticks. And yet the game has been decided against them without even having been offered a chance to see if they could win. And all of it comes from an argument that they didn't even start, Lynch deciding that the umpire exceeded his authority.

WHO'S THAT SAID WE SHOULD LOVE THE UMPIRE? This makes two games that the Giants have lost to the Phillies through the mistakes of umpires and they can't be blamed for feeling a little sore. A few weeks ago Umpire Klem brought them back on the field to play a game that they had already won because he hadn't announced the batter. And in that case it was the fault of Dooin, who signalled Pitcher Alexander to pitch the ball.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THIS FOR A PRECEDENT.

Regardless of whether there was a ground rule preventing spectators from occupying a certain section of seats, President Lynch has put himself in the rather awkward position of deciding that the Phillies would have won any way because they were two runs ahead when the trouble started. His ruling is neither clear nor according to the rules. If the Giants were at fault the game should have been awarded to Philadelphia by a score of 9 to 0. If neither team was at fault the game should be played over or the Giants should at least have a chance to play out their inning. If the Phillies were at fault, then the umpire should have been upheld. Either the umpire, the Phillies or the Giants were wrong, and it is not up to the President of a league to decide how a game "ought to" have ended.

STILL, THEY HAD JUST AS SOON HAVE THE GAME.

After all, this ruling by Mr. Lynch is likely to prove a blessing in disguise to the Giants. The players are hopping mad and will now go out and fight their hardest to settle the race in a hurry. On account of the big lead they have been inclined to take it slow, up in their efforts, as have the Athletics. From now on they'll have to be up on their toes. See if they don't.

BUT, REMEMBER, THEY ARE IN FIFTH PLACE NOW!

In the mean time those Boston Braves are around here setting up dikes and annoying us considerably. Hub Perdue, the Gallatin squasher, got on the mound yesterday and gave the champs about as neat a trimming as they have had all season. It was the eighth inning before they could nick Hub for anything like a run, and the one that came in the ninth was too late to be of any use.

NEW RECRUITS FOR THE ALL-AMERICAN BONES.

Catcher Harden has been notified of membership in the All-American Bone Club and Jim Thorpe will probably be admitted with him. In the first inning, with Burns on first, Harden made a throw to second without waiting to see if George would try to steal, which he didn't. The ball rolled to the outfield and Burns walked down and took the extra sack. Thorpe's claim to membership in the select order rests on his run from first to third in the fifth inning when Crandall hit a fly to Griffith. Mr. Sweeney made a bluff as if taking a throw at second and Thorpe kept running. In the mean time Griffith had thrown to first for a double play and a good rally was knocked in the head.

REINFORCEMENTS CAME TOO LATE.

After Teareau and Fromme had been frailed for the five runs made by the Braves, Old Doctor Crandall got on the job and twirled us some championship ball. He allowed just two hits and walked two batters. Once the Doc had cranked up and got under way, the plate was absolutely free of Boston runners. If the Giants had been able to hit Perdue Crandall might have pitched them to victory.

The release of Third Baseman McDonald to Rochester caused much surprise among the players. This young fellow, fresh from the Texas League, started the season for Boston like a new star. For three months he led the league in hitting and appeared to be a fixture. It is very likely that Stallings still has a string on him.

Pinch Hitters McCormick and Herzog were in fine fettle, each making a hit when called upon. Doc Crandall, who served both as pinch hitter and pinch pitcher, also got his two base bingle, but all to no avail. The regulars couldn't live up to their name.

STANDING OF THE CLUBS				RESULTS OF YESTERDAY'S GAMES			
Club	W	L	Pct.	Club	W	L	Pct.
New York	45	37	.550	Philadelphia	23	39	.369
Philadelphia	35	47	.427	Pittsburgh	27	35	.438
Pittsburgh	37	37	.500	St. Louis	25	33	.438
St. Louis	33	37	.472	Chicago	27	35	.438
Chicago	27	35	.438	Boston	25	33	.438
Boston	25	33	.438	Washington	23	39	.369
Washington	23	39	.369	Cleveland	21	41	.340
Cleveland	21	41	.340	St. Paul	21	41	.340
St. Paul	21	41	.340	Minneapolis	21	41	.340
Minneapolis	21	41	.340	San Francisco	21	41	.340
San Francisco	21	41	.340	Los Angeles	21	41	.340
Los Angeles	21	41	.340	San Diego	21	41	.340
San Diego	21	41	.340	Portland	21	41	.340
Portland	21	41	.340	Seattle	21	41	.340
Seattle	21	41	.340	Tacoma	21	41	.340
Tacoma	21	41	.340	Vancouver	21	41	.340
Vancouver	21	41	.340	Victoria	21	41	.340
Victoria	21	41	.340	Regina	21	41	.340
Regina	21	41	.340	Saskatoon	21	41	.340
Saskatoon	21	41	.340	Winnipeg	21	41	.340
Winnipeg	21	41	.340	Manitoba	21	41	.340
Manitoba	21	41	.340	Saskatchewan	21	41	.340
Saskatchewan	21	41	.340	Alberta	21	41	.340
Alberta	21	41	.340	British Columbia	21	41	.340
British Columbia	21	41	.340	Yukon	21	41	.340
Yukon	21	41	.340	Northern	21	41	.340
Northern	21	41	.340	Far North	21	41	.340
Far North	21	41	.340	Arctic	21	41	.340
Arctic	21	41	.340	Antarctic	21	41	.340



Bear in mind to keep your eyes glued on the ball. If you happen to glance up a second or two just before making the stroke the chances are that the ball will be either topped or sent flying off to the right. Remember, above everything else, to hit the ball first and then take turf. The elbows are kept in more toward the body and after the club meets the ball turn the wrists up. The less follow-through the better. The ball will rise with surprising little follow-through. Beginners when using the niblick try to make a sort of a scoop stroke. They never make much headway. Instead of the ball rising it shoots further into the bunker or high grass. With the straight up and down stroke the ball is given a glancing hit. This gives what is known as the back spin to the ball. This spin prevents the ball from taking a long roll after landing on the green. It is the same principle used in billiards to make a ball take a quick stop. The downward stroke of the cue will give a spin to the ivory that makes it run a short distance, and then the spin causes the ball to retract. To produce the same result with the niblick in order to have the ball come a quick stop with the back spin it is necessary that the face of the club should strike the ball in identically the same manner as the cue meets the billiard ball. This up and down stroke is not only the very best for getting out of bunkers, but it must be used to bring the ball out of tall grass. Beginners when they discover the ball in high and heavy grass often make the mistake of playing the niblick with a sort of a sweep or scoop stroke. This is wrong. When a player attempts to bring his club along the ground for the swing he will encounter grass that will twist and wind around the club handle, taking much of the strength from the stroke. The grass catching on the club will turn the toe of the club in toward the body, resulting in a pull which would keep the ball in the grass, no matter how hard hit. The job of getting out of grass is one of the hardest shots a player must make. I have devoted months of practice on this one single play, and beginners should quickly realize that they cannot become adept with the niblick unless they practice it long and hard. Getting out of sand is much the same as playing out of high grass and bunkers. You've got to keep pounding at the ball and sometimes trust to luck. The accompanying picture shows how the sand flies when the ball is hit out. The next article will contain suggestions for playing different lies.

TENNIS CHAMPION TALKS WITH

Californian Champion Tells of His Early Tennis Days and of Experiences Gained Then Which Have Stood Him in Good Stead Since.

If there has been one particular point about the Far Western tennis player that has excited Eastern surprise it is the youth of the Californian racket wielders. Excepting "Tom" Bundy, McLoughlin's double partner, the average age of the invaders has been under twenty years. That the system of playing throughout the entire year is mainly responsible for this condition is not disputed.

Indeed, the very speed, the wonderful form the coast players have shown is unquestionably due to the fact that they can and do play the entire year, whereas the Eastern star must be content with just five or six months. Climatic conditions, rather than any sectional superiority, has caused the Westerner to loom up as the tennis leader of the country.

McLoughlin at twenty was practically the same player he is today. He was runner-up in the national championship, winner of the New York State title, the Longwood Cup and the Southampton series, and a year later won the Newport tourney and a succession of titles and cups that shook up the Eastern tennis firmament. The rest of the Western continent, Strachan, Johnston, Griffin, Long, was even younger, and therefore a surprise to the staid East. McLoughlin's description, the first he has given to the public, of his early tennis days, is, therefore, very interesting. He had been playing tennis only six years when he surprised the East three years ago.

"I have been playing tennis," he says, "since I was just fourteen years of age. I had been toying with the game in what is known in San Francisco as the Golden Gate Park. Practically speaking, I owe my tennis to Dr. S. R. Marvin, who is one of those men whose hobby is to encourage young fellows to play clean, to take seriously a sport that will keep them out of bad company and other mischief. I played at first with a 'busted' racket and a rubber ball. Then Dr. Marvin talked to us boys in the way that he has and some of us became ambitious.

"I wanted to be a great tennis player. I thought of Larned, Whitman, Wright, Doherty as the 'grass eater' dreams of his Wagner, LaJoie and Cobb. Again, however, it was Dr. Marvin who laid another firm foundation stone. He showed the importance of using the head. I have never forgotten his advice of 'play to your weakness.' It is easy enough to shine with some specially strong stroke, as a forehand drive, but in the end one finds that it is the weak spot that beats you.

"The strokes and speed of tennis, the service and court covering, I acquired in my own home club, but the finish, the use of head-work, the change of pace necessitated by meeting different types of tennis is in a great measure due to the East and the coaching of experts such as Larned. "Our Western game, made exceptionally fast by asphalt courts, naturally excited comment when first discovered by the East. The court conditions, our twelve months' play, made our game very speedy. Furthermore, the turf courts did not prove bothersome to us because we had the foundation of speedy strokes which were given freer play on grass than on asphalt. The fear, expressed by the Western and also the Eastern people, that grass would mean a revision of the game, proved a hoax.

"I believe that the incomparable Whitman was the first important Easterner to urge a Western invasion of Newport. He realized the importance of Western tennis, if grass proved amenable. Later Pell, Hackett, Alex-

"If I may be forgiven for giving just a small piece of advice I would say that a boy or man must sacrifice a possible victory very often in order to develop where he is weak, to overcome a

AMUSEMENTS.

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